

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 ART AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM

JUNE 2, 2026



PROJECT BACKGROUND

ART AND CULTURE GRANTS

Funded through the Public Art Fund, the Town of Castle Rock's annual Art and Culture Grant Program supports vibrant art and culture initiatives that enrich the community and foster creativity. The program provides funding to nonprofit organizations, businesses, government agencies, artists and educators to enhance Castle Rock's cultural landscape through innovative programming, projects and educational opportunities.

Three grant categories are available:

- **Program Grants** - up to five grants of up to \$10,000 each to support workshops, classes, performances, events and educational programming
- **Project Grants** - up to five grants of up to \$5,000 each to support visual or experiential public art installations
- **Educator Grants** - up to ten grants of up to \$1,000 each to support art and cultural education initiatives in schools or other educational formats

2026-2027 CYCLE

For the 2026-2027 grant cycle, 16 applications were received.

A panel consisting of members of the Public Art Commission, Town staff and a Councilmember reviewed all submitted applications in April using an adopted grant rubric.

Following a detailed review and scoring process, the panel recommends 14 for approval.

Common concerns among the remaining applications included insufficient alignment with grant category requirements, lack of finalized project details, and project impacts that were not commensurate with the amount of funding requested

Grant funds will be distributed this summer.

Grants must be completed by the close of 2027.

EDUCATOR GRANTS

Castle Rock Christian Academy (\$790)

Funds will support the direct purchase of Apple Pencils to provide art students at Castle Rock Christian Academy with enhanced instruction in both traditional drawing and digital illustration techniques.

Castle Rock Christian Academy (\$1,000)

Castle Rock Christian Academy will use grant funding to purchase ChompSaws and related supplies. ChompSaws are safe cutting tools that allow students to cut cardboard and other lightweight materials for hands-on design projects, model building and collaborative learning activities.

Brandon Stover/Renaissance Secondary School (\$1,000)

Brandon Stover will use grant funding to purchase a Japanese taiko drum to enhance classroom music instruction and provide students with hands-on exposure to percussion performance and Japanese cultural music traditions at Renaissance Secondary School.



PROJECT GRANTS

KC Neel/Castle Rock Bike and Ski (\$5,000)

KC Neel will create and install a public mural at Castle Rock Bike and Ski to add visual interest and artistic character to a community-facing location in Downtown Castle Rock.



PROJECT GRANTS

Ben Henry - Project Grant (\$5,000)

Ben Henry will complete a “Windows to Nature” mural project in the breezeway near Lost Coffee, creating a nature-inspired mural intended to enhance the surrounding area and contribute to Castle Rock’s local arts environment.



Parking lot side of breezeway



Perry street side of breezeway



PROJECT GRANTS

Kat Thomas/Kat Pro Studio (\$5,000)

Kat Thomas will complete a mural project designed to enhance a visible community space on the south wall of the business complex near Eighth and Wilcox streets.



PROJECT GRANTS

Andrew Wasson/Wild Blue Yonder (\$5,000)

Andrew Wasson will complete a wing sculpture installation designed to enhance a community gathering space and create an interactive artistic feature for residents and visitors at Wild Blue Yonder at Sixth and Wilcox streets.



PROJECT GRANTS

Heidi Mossman/Life at Home (\$5,000)

Heidi Mossman will complete a wing mural installation designed to enhance a community gathering space and create an interactive artistic feature for residents and visitors at Life at Home near Elbert and Fourth streets.



PROJECT GRANTS

Samantha Sobas/COF33 (\$5,000)

Samantha Sobas, in collaboration with local artist Matt Rinn, will install the “Rooted in Castle Rock” sculpture at COF33. The large-scale tree-inspired metal sculpture is designed to transform a highly visible downtown planter into a permanent artistic feature that reflects Colorado’s natural landscape and encourages gathering in the downtown area.



PROJECT GRANTS

Castle Rock Police K9 Association (\$5,000)

The Castle Rock Police K9 Association will install the “Sit, Stay, Heal” bronze sculpture near the Castle Rock Police Department to honor police therapy dogs, service animals and the connection between dogs and the community. The sculpture will be incorporated into a planned public seating area near Perry Street and Second Street in downtown Castle Rock.



PROJECT GRANTS

Melanie Schambach (\$5,000)

Melanie Schambach's "Everyone Is an Artist" project will create a Little Free Library for art supplies near Cantril School, allowing residents to share and access creative materials. The project also includes a community chalkboard wall and a rotating mini art gallery, all designed to encourage creativity and community engagement for residents of all ages.



PROGRAM GRANTS

Castle Rock Band (\$4,900)

Castle Rock Band will use grant funding to support its free public concert series, including seasonal and patriotic performances that provide accessible live music opportunities for Castle Rock residents and visitors throughout the year.

Castle Rock Orchestra (\$500)

Castle Rock Orchestra will use grant funding to support a community music program and performance opportunity for local residents and musicians.

Tri Arts Project (TAP) (\$10,000)

TAP will use grant funding to support expanded arts programming at Cantril School, including teen performing arts workshops, senior living outreach classes, community exhibitions and accessible creative opportunities for Castle Rock residents and local artists.

BUDGET IMPACT

Applicant	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Amy Fleet	\$790	\$790
Andrew Wasson	\$5,000	\$5,000
Ben Henry	\$5,000	\$5,000
Brandon Stover	\$1,000	\$1,000
Castle Rock Christian Academy	\$1,000	\$1,000
Heidi Mossman	\$5,000	\$5,000
Kat Thomas	\$5,000	\$5,000
KC Neel	\$5,000	\$5,000
Castle Rock Orchestra	\$500	\$500
Melanie Schambach	\$5,000	\$5,000
Samantha Sobas/COF33	\$5,000	\$5,000
Castle Rock Police K9 Association	\$10,000	\$5,000
Castle Rock Band	\$4,900	\$4,900
Tri Arts Project	\$10,000	\$10,000
Total	\$63,190	\$58,190

Total recommend to award is \$58,190. Grants will be distributed this summer with funding from the Public Art Fund as approved within the 2026 adopted budget.

2026-2027 CYCLE

“I move to approve the proposed grant awards as presented.”

Alternate motions:

“I move to approve the applications, with the following conditions:” (list conditions)

“I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on [date], at [time].”



THANK YOU
SEE YOU SOON